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C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 008237

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [MASS](#) [IZ](#) [JO](#)

SUBJECT: CT TRAINING PROGRAM FOR IRAQ

REF: AMMAN 8071

Classified By: Ambassador Edward Gnehm for reasons 1.5 (b) and (d)

1. (C) Jordan's King Abdullah and U.S. Brigadier General Harrell (Special Operations Command, Central) signed an agreement December 15 for Jordan to provide counter-terrorism training for Iraqi forces with U.S. support. The agreement provides for counter-terrorism training for Iraqi recruits, to occur in Jordan. Four consecutive twelve-week training classes are planned. The first group of approximately two hundred trainees will arrive in late December, to begin training January 1. The Government of Jordan has offered to pay the training costs of the first class of recruits, and will provide equipment and materials for the training site at low cost. Ambassador Gnehm accompanied the General to his meeting with the King at G.I.D. Headquarters.

2. (C) After signing the agreement, General Harrell thanked the King profusely for his generous support of the program and complimented the extraordinary capacity of the Jordanian Special Forces. The King, visibly pleased to hear this, described several personal interventions he had made with his commanders regarding the counter-terrorism training. Looking ahead, the King said he had asked his commanders to identify a number of star performers to bring back for advanced training. The King said he would like to think long-term on counter-terrorism training for the Iraqi forces. General Harrell replied that advanced training for the outstanding trainees was an excellent idea.

3. (C) Comment: The Jordanian Special Forces have made every effort to ensure the success of the counter-terrorism training program. Unlike other Jordan-based cooperative training arrangements in support of Iraq, such as the nascent Iraqi police training center (reftel), planning for the counter-terrorism training has gone very smoothly and clearly enjoys direct support from the highest levels of the government. The King, who discussed the Iraqi counter-terrorism training program with President Bush during his recent visit to Washington, has been tremendously forthcoming, no doubt due in part to his own special forces background and personal relationships with the commanders involved.

GNEHM